



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 046124-5283

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Ikuo ARATA et al.)	Confirmation No.: 6523
)	
Application No.: 10/804,193)	Group Art Unit: 2873
)	
Filed: March 19, 2004)	Examiner: Mohammed A. Hasan
)	
Date of Allowance: April 5, 2005)	
)	
For: SOLID IMMERSION LENS AND)	
SAMPLE OBSERVATION METHOD)	
USING IT)	

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop RCE
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 for the above-identified application. Accordingly, this IDS is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and no fees are believed to be necessary.

Each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in one of two International Search Reports dated July 13, 2004 and July 20, 2004. Copies of each of these two International Search Reports are enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

A copy of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

Applicants note that while the attached International Search Report dated July 13, 2004 additionally cites to JP 7-18806, dated March 6, 1995, that document is not listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 because it was previously filed in an IDS in this application on September 8, 2004.

The listed documents are in a language other than English. The relevance of these documents can be understood by the attached English-language Abstracts and the citation of these documents in the attached International Search Reports.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 5, 2005

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